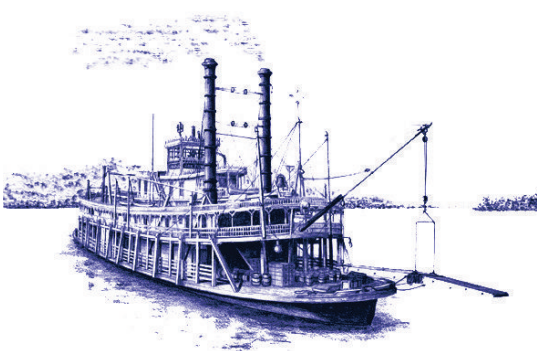




THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025 *Serving the Courier area since 1837* NEWSSTAND • \$1.75

Govt. shutdown threatens local Head Start, SNAP benefits

BY BOB DEMAREE

The federal government shutdown that began Oct. 1 is about to extend into a second month with the impact being felt more locally on Nov. 1 if the standoff doesn't end.

Ohio Valley Opportunities (OVO), the nonprofit agency that serves Jefferson, Jennings and Scott counties, operates a Head Start Preschool Program that could face temporary closure due to the government shutdown, disrupting early education, nutrition and support service for 135 children and 121 families and similar impacts will be felt in other communities and counties.

For those receiving food assistance through SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the benefit will not be sent out if the shutdown continues beyond Nov. 1.

In Indiana, 571,594 Hoosiers were receiving SNAP benefits in September, according the latest data from the Indiana Family and Social Services Association. In Kentucky, there were 563,080 SNAP recipients, according to data from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services.

A chart from the Associated Press reported 10% of the households in Jefferson County receive SNAP benefits, 11.8% in Switzerland County, 12.4% in Carroll County and 11.4% in Trimble County.

SEE **SHUTDOWN/PAGE A3**

Kelsey designs ornament for Statehouse Christmas tree

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Jefferson County will be represented on the Christmas tree in the Indiana Statehouse with an ornament by Madison artist and theater teacher Aaron Kelsey.

The project is conjunction with the Hoosier Hope Foundation that is raising one-half of the cost to provide free, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age 5 from the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL).

Jefferson County United Way and River Valley Resources are Jefferson County sponsors of the DPIL in Jefferson County, paying the other half of the cost for the 801 children receiving books in Jefferson County.

Indiana First Lady Maureen Braun is decorating the Statehouse Christmas tree with 6-inch ornaments painting with a Dolly Parton theme represent Indiana's 92 counties.

Kelsey's design features Parton with her blonde hair cascading down, dressed in her classic rhinestone clothes and playing her guitar. He added Dolly's tagline "Dream more, learn more, care more, and be more," and he included the Smoky Mountains, open books and her favorite butterflies.



Above: The ornament local artist Aaron Kelsey created for a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library fundraiser.



Left: Artist Aaron Kelsey and his Jefferson County ornament for the Indiana Statehouse Christmas tree.
Handouts

HDBR grants COA on Custer House rehab

BY MARK CAMPBELL

Madison's Historic District Board of Review granted unanimous and enthusiastic approval for Indiana Landmarks to rehabilitate the historic Custer House, 111 East Fourth Street, at its meeting on Monday.

The project, which will save the badly deteriorated but historically contributing structure from demolition, will not only completely rehabilitate the exterior shell, windows and doors of the circa 1844 home, but also construct a two story addition to the rear while reserving space in the back yard for a potential garage at a future date.

The primary plan is to save the structure from demolition but the long-range goal is to stabilize and restore the shell of the home to then be sold to a buyer who will then complete the interior of the house to once again serve as a single family home, said Greg Sekula, director of Indiana Landmarks' Southern Regional Office.

"If there are no takers, we may try to finish the interior, too," said Sekula, adding that the first focus is to preserve the historic integrity of the building and let its eventual owner decide how the interior will be used.

The first challenge will be rebuilding the foundation and framework of the structure and then repair or replace the decayed, damaged or missing wood siding and repair the dozens of windows on the home. Sekula said efforts will be made to use materials accurate to the home's period including the use of materials salvaged from another historic home in Jefferson County.

The project is just one of several structures Indiana Landmarks is currently tackling in Jefferson County. Windows from a farmhouse that was demolished to make room for a proposed veterinary education program at Hanover College that will be repurposed for the Custer site in downtown Madison.

Approval of the certificate of appropriateness was an easy decision by the HDBR compared to many of the applications the board has considered in recent months. Indiana Landmarks plans to use wood siding and windows while many applicants request using vinyl or aluminum siding and replacement windows which

SEE **CUSTER/PAGE A2**

Charlie's Beat: Faith Bible reflects on a lifetime of song

This week's story is a bookend companion piece of sorts to the profile we did on Dan Datillo a couple weeks ago. Loyal readers may recall that I became acquainted with Dan's singing talents at Yvonne Davis's 90th birthday celebration concert at Madison Presbyterian Church. Yvonne was surrounded by many of Madison's top musicians and vocalists to accompany her, and Faith Bible was one of the singers, along with Dan.

Many local residents will be familiar with Faith, as she was



CHARLIE ROHLFING
COLUMNIST

born and raised here in Madison. Her daughter, Brittany Todd Humes, graduated with my son from Madison Consolidated High School. And her dad, Ira Todd, was a long time employee at Grote. But perhaps the place I knew her best was behind the counter at Glass Unlimited for many years. "If it's glass, just ask!" they said, and I often did

just that.

Faith's performance at Yvonne's concert was powerful and inspiring, as her singing always is. Her rendition of Stormy Weather is not a tune to be tackled lightly, as it is complex, challenging, and invites comparison to torch singers like Lena Horne and Etta James, who left their indelible mark on the enduring classic. But Faith did the song proud, with confidence and admirable control.

Like Dan Datillo, Faith has been a fixture around Madison singing at weddings, funerals

and even the National Anthem at the Regatta one year. "I'd think nothing about taking my lunch break to go sing at the funeral of a total stranger, and be back at the desk by 1:00," relates Faith. "I figure I've sung at well over 200 weddings in the three decades I've been doing it. I even had the honor of singing to my husband on our wedding day!"

"Music and singing were just kind of a given growing up in my family. We went to the



File

SEE **BEAT/PAGE A3**

FAITH BIBLE

57

39

High Low

Partly cloudy, Page

INSIDE

Comics
Features

A4-5 Records
B5 Sports

A2
B1-4

DEATHS, A2

Kathy Cunningham
Barbara Geisler

Joan Mikesell
Julie Smith

Robald Smith
Robert Warren Sr.



Community Veterans Day Program Honoring All Who Served

Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Veteran's breakfast and roll call registration 7 - 8:20 am
MCHS Auxiliary Gym
Community Program begins at 8:30 am
Connor K. Salm Gymnasium

We invite you to attend our upcoming
OPEN Substitute Teacher Training
session to learn more!
Wednesday, October 29, 2025 - 9 am or 3 pm
2421 Wilson Ave., Madison, IN

Per diem rates:
\$97.50 - HS diploma,
\$105 - Associate's or 60+ hours
\$120 - IN licensed or retired
teacher or Bachelor's from an
accredited institution

It is the policy of Madison Consolidated Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age, in its programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (I.C. 1971, 22-9-1); Public Law 218 (I.C. 1971, Title 20); Titles VI and VII (Civil Rights Act 1964); the Equal Pay Act of 1973; Title IX (1972 Education Amendments); Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 93-112, Section 504.

Anti-Lynching art exhibit coming to History and Art Center

BY BOB DEMAREE

The exhibit “Unmasked: Anti-Lynching Art and Public Community Remembrance in Indiana” is coming next week to the Jefferson County History and Art Center at 615 West First Street.

“Madison is an art and music city, an historical city. We love history, we love music, we love the arts, and this particular exhibit is the reimagining of two historic exhibitions held in 1935,” said Sue Livers, who was instrumental in bringing the exhibit to Jefferson County.

There will be an opening reception at 4 p.m. Tuesday that will include Helen Mumphrey, a pianist/singer from Carrollton, Kentucky, performing Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit.” The exhibit will available 1-5 p.m. daily beginning Wednesday, Nov. 5, and ending Friday, Nov. 14 and include guided tours.

“We have excellent volunteers that will help you navigate your way through” said Livers.

“Strange Fruit” is a song that originated as a protest poem against lynchings that was inspired by a photograph of the 1930 lynching of two 19-year-old Black men — Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith — in Marion, Indiana.

They were kidnapped from their jail cells, beaten and hanged from a tree in the county courthouse

square Aug. 7, 1930 before a group of thousands. “Back in that day, groups would gather when someone was lynched,” said Livers. “It was a party.”

The lynching in Marion is an example of the violence of murder that was being committed. The exhibition “addresses the legacy of racial violence in the United States. It’s meant to foster community dialogue, remembering some of the things that happened that we have chosen to forget,” said Livers, adding that through the visual art there is also dialogue of reconciliation and justice.

“Unmasked” is organized around a reimagination of two historic anti-lynching exhibitions held in New York City in 1935, just two miles apart, each with a distinct vision of the political role of art. This project unites these exhibitions in a single gallery space.

“Unmasked” opened at Indiana University on March 23, 2023, and since then has been to several locations in Indiana including Second Baptist Church, an historic church building in New Albany also know as the Town Clock Church.

Livers said although the exhibit's pictures aren’t “real graphic” pictures” it is not recommended for students under the age of 15.

The exhibition received funding assistance from a \$1,950 Jefferson County Board of Tourism grant.

DEATH NOTICES

Kathy Jo Sandlin Cunningham, 76, of Madison, IN, died Monday, Oct. 27, 2025, at Norton King's Daughters' Health in Madison after battling many health issues. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, with interment to follow in the Vernon Cemetery in Vernon, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Barbara L. Geisler, 84, of Rexville, IN, and formerly of Madison, IN, died Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025 at King’s Daughters’ Health in Madison. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, at Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home in Versailles, IN, with burial in the Indiana Veteran Cemetery in Madison, www.skfuneralhome.com.

Joan Rossi Mikesell, 65, of Madison, IN, died Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Norton Hosparus Inpatient Unit in Louisville. Cremation was chosen with no services to be held. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Julie Anne Smith, 45, Carrollton, KY, died

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. A celebration of life was Tuesday, Oct. 28, at American Legion Post 41 in Carrollton. Arrangements by Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

Ronald Coleman Smith, 72, of Bedford, KY, died Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Norton Brownsboro Hospital in Louisville. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, with burial in the Bedford Cemetery there, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Robert Craig Warren Sr., 74, of Opelika, AL, died Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at his home. He served in both the Air National Guard and Army National Guard and was a former minister at Dupont United Methodist Church in Dupont, IN. Funeral service is at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, at Trinity Methodist Church in Opelika, with burial at Town Creek Cemetery, in Auburn, AL. Arrangements by Jeffcoat-Trant Funeral Home in Opelika, www.jeffcoattrant.com.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Editor’s Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1
Kim Eldridge

Nov. 2
Tammy Burress

Garry Chandler
Kim Shirley Eldridge

Nov. 4
Jim Bartlett

Nov. 5
Toni Galassi
Carol Taylor
Aaron Lux

Nov. 6
Mary Lynn Stockdale
David Sutter

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 25
Neil and Alice Pruitt - 74

WEATHER

Sunrise: 8:06 a.m.
Sunset: 6:43 p.m.
Temperature: High 57, Low 39, Mean 48.0, Deficit 11.1
Precipitation since last published: 1.42
Precipitation, October 2025: 2.87
Precipitation, 2025: 50.70

Barometer 29.62, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 422.24 feet, Rising
Forecast: Saturday: Mostly cloudy High 59/Low 38; Sunday: Partly cloudy High 57/Low 36; Monday: Sunny 61/Low 36; Tuesday: Mostly sunny High 64/Low 44.

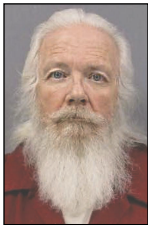
New Albany man gets 30-years for dealing meth

BY THE COURIER STAFF

A New Albany man was sentenced last week to 30 years at Indiana Department of Correction — 20 years for the lead Dealing in Metham-phetamine charge with an additional 10-year enhancement for being a Habitual Offender.

Mode William Martin IV, 57, was sentenced Friday, Oct. 24, by Circuit Court Judge DJ Mote.

“Judge Mote’s sentence demonstrates a clear commitment to protecting



Mode William Martin IV

the people of Jefferson County,” said Prosecutor David Sutter. “We appreciate the court’s recognition of the dangers of metham-phetamine in our community and its willingness to hold repeat offenders accountable.”

In August 2023, the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office conducted and supervised two controlled buys, in which Martin sold a combined total of more than 55 grams of methamphetamine to an informant. The seized substances were later

analyzed by the Indiana State Police Laboratory, which confirmed both quantities tested positive for methamphetamine.

Following the affirmative laboratory results, a warrant was issued, and Martin was arrested in June 2024. A habitual offender enhancement was subsequently filed as Martin has three previous felony convictions from Clark, Jefferson, and Floyd counties.

In September 2025, Mode Martin IV entered a guilty plea to the lead charge of Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, and admitted to the Habitual

offender enhancement, as part of an open plea agreement.

Martin currently has two additional criminal cases pending in Floyd County, both involving charges for possession and dealing methamphetamine.

“We are grateful for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office as their outstanding coordination and dedication, made this conviction and sentence possible,” Sutter said, citing work done by Sheriff Ben Flint, Detective Yancy Denning, the Indiana State Police Laboratory and Deputy Prosecutor Michaelia Gilbert.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

Lodgings

Oct. 27, 2025

Patrick Hughes Dorten, 42, Madison, for Communication-Intimidation, a Level 5 felony; and Criminal recklessness, a Level 5 felony. No bond.

Oct. 28, 2025

Christian Blake Horton, 30, Madison, for Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug, a Level 6 felony; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and on a parole hold warrant. No bond.

Gina R. Owen, 42, Hanover, for Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

Wade D. Schenck, 58, Vevay, Indiana, for Driving While Suspended-Prior Suspension Within 10 Years, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.

Oct. 29, 2025

Kent Jason Koehler, 52, Lexington, Indiana, on a court-ordered sentencing for probation violation, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

Sentencings

Oct. 28, 2025

Cody Joe Caswell, 31, Hanover, for violation of parole.

Court revokes 1,256 days of sentence and orders it to be served at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 85 days.

Mode W. Martin IV, 57, New Albany, Indiana, to an amended charge of Dealing in Methamphetamine/Delivery of Methamphetamine-10 or more grams, a Level 2 felony. Sentenced to 30 years at Indiana Department of Correction (20 years with a 10-year habitual offender enhancement), fully executed, with credit for 7 days jail served and remaining bond money surrendered to pay court costs and fees.

Jason Keith Updegraff, 29, Deputy, Indiana, for Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 3 felony. Sentenced to 2,555 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 165 days jail served and 1,095 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$789 in fees and court costs.

Michelle Lynn Monroe, 33, Hanover, to an amended charge of Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor; and Illegal Taking of a Wild Animal, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 144 days jail on the resisting charge consecutive to 60 days jail on the animal charge, served, plus \$289 in fees and court costs.

Thomas A. Downey, 47, Madison, to an amended charge of Sexual Battery, a Level 6 felony with Habitual Offender Enhancement. Sentenced to 730 days at Indiana Department of

Correction, enhanced by 1,095 days for a total of 1,825 days, fully executed; with credit for 136 days jail time served plus \$389 in fees and court costs.

Ashton Tyler Marts, 33, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 122 days jail served, plus \$789 in fees and court costs.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Jefferson County

Oct. 27, 2025

Jeffrey Cleon Knox Holdings LLC to Cuatrok Holdings LLC, 1007 and 1009 Park Avenue, Madison.

Michael Paul Balon and Michael Paul Balon and Linda Sue Balon Revocable Living Trust to Theresa Marcus and Theresa Marcus Living Trust, 6941 South Saluda Paynesville Road, Hanover.

Edward L. Walters to Edward L. Walters and Diane Walters, 232 West Second Street, Hanover.

Marilyn K. Wehner to George Singer, 4147 North Shun Pike Road, Madison.

Pete Stacy and Roberta Stacy to Whitney Cassidy and Aaron Cassidy, 4692 North State Road 3, Deputy.

Ca Troung Do, Bieh Lieu Nguyen and Anna Lieu Nguyen

to Troung Ca Do and Anna Lieu Nguyen, 3460 Celtic Cross, Madison.

Ca Troung Do to N&D Properties LLC, 1402 Bear Street, Madison.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Stuart Shields, 8.6 acres at 845 North Borcharding Road, Madison.

James Slater Franklin and Sarah E. Franklin to RLK Capital LLC, 6815 West O’Neal Avenue, Dupont.

Adam Wood and Dawn Wood to Farmboys LLC, approximately 25 acres at 6678 and 6698 South Taylor Road, Hanover.

Deborah S. Morris and Deborah S. McDonald to Deborah S. Morris, 1957 East Telegraph Hill Road, Madison.

J. Richard Jones and Nancy Helen Jones to J. Richard Jones Trust, approximately 3.2 acres at 3048 and 3050 Clifty Drive, Madison.

Oct. 28, 2025

Frances L Blackwood to Monica F. Steidinger, 1057 West Main Street, Madison.

2nd Wind LLC to Angela Leason, 315 Ross Street, Madison.

Phillips Development Inc. to Jessica Bennett, 155 Dunn Avenue, Hanover.

Elvira Lynn Sutherland to Daniel David Sutherland, 15813 West Blake Road, Deputy.

Lotteries

INDIANA	KENTUCKY	POWERBALL
Hoosier Lotto 10-13-15-17-19-25 (10/29). Estimated Jackpot: \$5 million. Next Drawing (11/1)	Cash Ball: 14-21-26-31 CB: 20 (10/29) Lucky For Life: 3-4-33-36-43 LB: 2 (10/29) MEGAMILLIONS: 2-19-33-53-61 MB: 14 (10/28) Next Jackpot: \$754 million. Next Drawing (10/31)	4-24-49-60-65 PB: 1, PP 2 (10/29). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$400 million. Next Drawing (11/1)
Cash Five: 2-17-19-21-22 (10/29)		POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 7-12-24-38-67 PB: 26 (10/29). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (11/1)
Cash 4 Life: 4-27-40-42-57 CB: 3 (10/29)		

CUSTER

FROM PAGE A1

are often less costly but also less likely to look original to the historic district.

“Thank you for what you’re doing,” said HDBR member Ken McWilliams, a remark echoed by other board members. “This is spot-on in how you are approaching this.”

Another high profile rehab project that was before the HDBR was seeking to replace historic wooden windows with aluminum clad wood windows in an effort to save costs for materials and labor and for energy efficiency.

Austin Ketcham, who has purchased and is rehabilitating a circa 1841 two story brick in the central business district at 221 East Main Street, said he plans to renovate the brick facade, the first floor windows and restore the original door but he was asking to replace the upstairs windows with the more modern materials.

The property, which has received one of Madison’s dilapidated structures grants, must also be brought up to code with plumbing, electrical and interior repair of water damage so Ketcham said using two replacement windows upstairs seemed like a minor concession on such a major project.

The board members questioned whether Ketcham had considered restoration of the windows by someone skilled at historic reconstruction but he indicated that the two windows were con-

sidered too far gone due to water damage and rot.

Board member Chris Cody counseled that Ketcham might later regret using replacement windows — ones that might not have the same historic look as the original windows — after spending so much time and expense on the rest of the building. He noted that the preferred wooden windows are new and efficient, too, and fit in better historically to compliment the city’s historic preservation goals.

Ketcham said while the materials would be different the look of the windows would be matched to other windows in the area. He said the difference in materials might not even be noticeable on the second flood and the cost savings and possibly efficiency of the modern windows was a factor in his decision.

“If it was 20 windows on the building and that was a massive cost increase I could see that being a big problem, but it’s two windows and it’s Main Street,” said Cody. “It’s a real tough one though. It’s so amazing that you’ve taken on this rehabilitation. The entire city is so excited and this is such an incredibly positive project that I’m hesitant to really be such a huge stickler. But then again, it’s Main Street and you’d still be getting what it is you want and not having to repair these but just a slightly higher quality of new windows.”

“Windows are the fit and finish of a historic building,” said board member Jed Skillman, noting that such attention to detail is what

makes Madison’s historic district special to both residents and visitors.

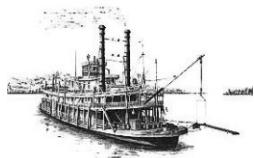
In the end, Ketcham agreed to use wooden replacement windows and the application was unanimously approved.

“You’ll be pleased that you did that when the building is open next year and your windows are spiffy,” said

Skillman.

After the vote, city Building Inspector Brian Shaw noted that although the board prefers restoring windows when possible, the decision to replace the windows at 221 East Main Street was well founded. He said the amount of water

SEE CUSTER/PAGE A3



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Indiana House speaker: lawmakers will convene later — not Nov. 3 — for special session

BY CASEY SMITH
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers will not convene on Monday for an upcoming special session, House Speaker Todd Huston said Wednesday, instead signaling that the Republican-led General Assembly plans to meet later within the 40-day window allowed by state law.

“House Republicans are working on scheduling and have been in communication with our colleagues in the Senate about the logistics of convening the General Assembly following the Governor’s call for a special session,” said Huston, R-Fishers. “Given the calendar and member availability, we will not be convening on Nov. 3 but are working within this general time frame as we consider the schedule.”

Earlier this week, Republican Gov. Mike Braun officially called a special session to take up mid-cycle congressional redistricting.

Braun’s order set the session for Monday, Nov. 3. But legislative leaders don’t have to convene the exact day that he suggested.

By law, the only requirement is it can’t last for more than 30 session days or 40 calendar days. That clock will begin Nov. 3.

Senate Republicans also indicated Wednesday that their chamber will not be ready to meet next week.

“We are working with our senators and our counterparts in the House to determine the



Leslie Bonilla Muñiz/Indiana Capital Chronicle

Hoosiers protest mid-cycle redistricting outside the Indiana Statehouse on Aug. 26.

scheduling availability of members,” said Senate GOP spokesperson Molly Swigart. “In all likelihood, the Senate will not be ready to convene the week of Nov. 3. Recall that in the most recent special session, the legislature did not convene for a few weeks after the initial date provided by the governor. I will let you know when we have an update to share.”

In 2022, then-Gov. Eric Holcomb called a special session for July 6, but the legislature didn’t convene until July 25 and wrapped up Aug. 5.

The next regularly scheduled legislative session kicks off in January, although the cere-

monial first day — Organization Day — is set for Nov. 18.

“The General Assembly is statutorily required to convene for Organization Day on Tuesday, Nov. 18, which is the official start of the 2026 regular session,” Huston said. “As always, our goal is to accomplish our work in a way that is most efficient and cost effective for Hoosier taxpayers. Our plan is to have a legislative schedule out as soon as possible.”

Braun’s summons to lawmakers tasked them with addressing early redistricting and state tax code mismatches.

The move came amid mounting national GOP pressure for Republican-led

states to redraw congressional maps before the 2026 midterm elections, in a bid to maintain the party’s control over the U.S. House.

It’s still unclear when exactly lawmakers will return to the Statehouse or how long the special session will last.

The last time Indiana redrew its congressional lines, the process stretched over several months and included statewide public hearings. This time, lawmakers will be under greater pressure to move quickly.

Candidate filing for the 2026 primary opens Jan. 7, possibly leaving a narrow window for debate, map approval and potential legal challenges.

County 2026 budget includes employee pay raises

BY BOB DEMAREE

A 2026 budget totaling \$29,718,559 was adopted by the Jefferson County Council at a special meeting Monday that included pay raises for county employees.

The budget must still be reviewed and approved by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) by the end of the year. Of the overall budget, \$24,043,246 is reviewed by DLGF, with the remaining \$5,675,313 considered home-ruled funds not reviewed by DLGF. The overall 2025 budget was slightly less at \$29,075,061.

Council President Chris Shelton told his fellow Council members, “I would like to thank each and every one of you for your hard work during the budget sessions. I don’t think a lot of people realize the time and effort and thought that goes into putting together the county budget but it is quite an intensive process” that requires “a lot of looking to see what is available and what is not” in funding the county.

Shelton also thanked County

Auditor Heather Huff “for your countless hours in researching items for us, and talking to the State Board of Accounts and DLGF to make sure everything is in alignment.”

The budget provides raises for county employees with the majority receiving a 4% increase, although some received more than that, according to Huff.

Council member Dwayne May said, “I am just glad we could give a good raise to our county employees. You see across the state their numbers aren’t as good as our numbers, and I am glad we could do that this year. You don’t know what’s coming down the pike, but I’m glad we could do that this year.”

Shelton said, “Everyone on the council worked very hard to bring the wages for the county employees to a better position than they were. Not that they were neglected but costs went up way faster than the salaries ever could. I appreciate everyone’s effort there. I hope the county employees will be in agreement what they received for next year as being a good thing.”

Southwestern adopts 2026 budget, OKs teacher contract

BY BOB DEMAREE

The 2026 budget for Southwestern Jefferson County Schools was adopted at Monday’s school board meeting along with the master teacher contract for the 2025-26 school year.

The advertised total budget for Southwestern is \$20,852,232 that includes \$12,830,500 in the education fund, \$6,264,700 in the operations fund and \$1,057,032 in debt service, along with \$700,000 in the rainy day fund. The advertised tax rate is \$3.1652 — 0.3749 cents for debt service and \$2.7903 for operations.

It is anticipated that after being reviewed by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) that the actual appropriations and actual tax rate will be lower.

Last year, Southwestern’s advertised budget was \$20,164,696 but the actual budget was \$17,184,140. Last year’s advertised tax rate was \$2.30 but the actual tax rate was \$1.124.

The one-year teacher contract provided an across-the-board increase of \$250 annually on the salary scale.

In addition, every returning teacher will advance one step on the salary schedule.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

- Superintendent Jill Mires said plans are underway for winter weather safety procedures that include evaluation on whether roads are safe enough for students to attend school, establishing outlets to inform parents when there is no school, and discussing the virtual learning schedule with teachers.

- Accepted the resignation of Theresa Scoggins as assistant treasurer, and retirement of Norma Stucker from the high school cafeteria after 31 years. Hired Mark Myers as Southwestern High School business teacher during a maternity leave.

- Reminded that Monday, Nov. 3, is the second of four professional days for teachers, with no school for students on that day. In August, a flexibility waiver approved for Southwestern by the Indiana State Board of Education allows 176 student school days instead of the required 180 to provide professional days. Other professional days remaining in the school year are Jan. 5 and April 6.

Hanover to seek input on one-way traffic for Crowe

BY BOB DEMAREE

The possibility of making a portion of Crowe Street one-way was discussed at Tuesday’s Hanover Town Council meeting, but public input will be sought before a decision is made.

Town Council President Debbie Kroger said the request had been made by a resident of that street due to the narrow width of the road, particularly between Main Cross Street and Presbyterian Avenue.

Town Marshal Shane Caldwell said, “I don’t think it’s a bad idea” to make one way that section of the street. He said there’s not much traffic there but the concern is for people who walk along

there.

Kroger said before any decision is made that more input must be sought. “I feel people who live on Crowe Street need to be consulted” to find out what they think.

Town Attorney Patrick Magrath said a public hearing isn’t required, but that might be the easiest way to know how residents feel about the possibility of making that section of road one-way.

In other business, the Council:

- Approved the town’s 2026 budget of \$1,209,244 with \$339,775 in the general fund.

- Superintendent of Streets and Utilities Scott Williams said the arrival of parts needed to repair the clarifier at the city’s sewage treatment plant

has been delayed due to the fact that the supplier sent the parts to Hanover, New Jersey, and they must now be transferred from there.

The clarifier is used to remove heavier solids from the wastewater stream. The plant remains operational with another tank continuing to function well.

- Williams said he is getting pricing for new pump housing for the Tallman lift station due to high levels of hydrogen sulfide that’s eating the metal. The lift station is currently running fine “but I want to fix it before it breaks.” Town employees will do the work but Williams expects the new pump housing will cost \$10,000 to \$15,000.

- Williams said with leaves

now falling, residents are encouraged to rake them into piles so the leaf disposal crews can find them. Only grass and leaves — no limbs or sticks — should be included.

Kroger emphasized that the town has an ordinance that prohibits burning of leaves and/or trash.

- Approved a proposal for an interlocal agreement with the county to utilize building inspector services for the town through the county. The agreement will now go to the County Commissioners for consideration.

- Made plans to purchase “No littering” signs in an effort to discourage littering while also updating the town’s litter ordinance to set a fine of up to \$500 for violations.

CUSTER

FROM PAGE A2

damage the windows had taken — the entire interior for that matter — was significant and the windows were substantially rotted.

In other discussions,

McWilliams presented a proposed amendment to the boards procedures to establish some ground rules for members of the audience who wish to offer comment on matter before the board.

Citing a Madison Plan Commission meeting a couple of months ago in which that board was criticized for changing

its public comment procedures, McWilliams urged the HDBR to proactively adopt guidelines on how the public can request an opportunity to speak on an issue and how long the board will allow for that input.

McWilliams suggested a sign-in sheet for those wanting to speak and a 4-minute limit to allow others an opportunity to

also speak. The board members agreed in principle with the addition that a guest who is not signed in could be allowed to speak at the discretion of the board.

The board members also noted that a policy should probably be adopted by the city to be in effect across all board and commissions.

BEAT

FROM PAGE A1

Ebenezer United Methodist Church right behind Greves Appliance, where both my parents sang in the choir. I sang my first solo at the church when I was 10 years old. Not to mention, music was always playing at our house, mom or dad were forever spinning records and singing along.

“I’ve done some popular singing too, over the years, with different bands. I worked with Jimmy Davis and his band for about three years, and I’ve done some jazz singing with Rob Houze. The concerts with Yvonne go way back, like 30 years. That’s why it was so gratifying to do the 90th birthday show with her. When Yvonne calls, you clear your calendar and make it work.

“I’ve been living up in Ripley County in Milan for some years now, so the gigs are more occasional than they used to be. But I’m still singing, and I still enjoy the opportunities when they come along.

“I will say, kind of watching from afar now, that I’ve been witnessing the evolu-

tion of Madison into Indiana’s Music City. I’m seeing more and more music going on, and so many opportunities to see and enjoy live music, for such a relatively small town. And when you think about the wealth of musicians Madison has ... you can pretty much name an instrument and guarantee that somebody plays it! It’s an exciting time to be involved in music in Madison these days.”

HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

Halloween night has always been a special celebration in Madison. You can count on multiple venues offering live music and a party atmosphere, and costumes are the order of the day, although not totally necessary if you don’t feel like dressing up. Perhaps the granddaddy of the Halloween parties is the one at Thomas Family Winery, now in its 31st year. It’s always a festive scene, with costume contests, lively music, and great friends. But you’ll be able to stroll around to six other hopping downtown venues Friday night, plus Tailgators up on the hilltop. Halloween weekend in Madison is just special, take our word for it. Make your

plans now to be a part of it!

Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd anywhere local live music is happening.

MUSIC EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 31

Riverboat Inn - Joe & Deano (7-9 p.m.)
1st St Saloon - DJ
Timeless LIVE! - The Rumors
Mad Paddle Brewstillery - Halloween Party (8 p.m.)
Thomas Family Winery - Anniversary Halloween Party (8 p.m.)
Central Hotel - Ragtop
Deluxe Halloween Party (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
TailGators - Damn Strange Band (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Rivertown Grill - Highway 9 Blues Band (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Vintage Lanes - Jazz music (7-9 p.m.)

Saturday, Nov. 1

VFW - River Valley Sons
Mad Paddle Brewstillery - Bad Medicine (7 p.m.)
Central Hotel - Lacey Lane Band (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
TailGators - Karaoke with DJ Scratchy (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Rivertown Grill - The Stoned Gnomes (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)

Sunday, Nov. 2

Rivertown Grill - Andrew Palmer (7-10 p.m.)

SHUTDOWN

FROM PAGE A1

OVO’s Head Start is one of 134 programs nationwide with a Nov. 1 grant award date that has the misfortune of approaching during a government shutdown.

“This isn’t our fault. It’s not fiscal mismanagement. It’s not operational mishaps. It’s the timing of the grant and timing of the federal government shutdown. That’s it,” said Brad Wood, OVO’s Executive Director.

OVO’s program provides preschool education to children ages three to five, many from low-income households. It also offers critical family support, health screenings and nutritional meals — totaling nearly 6,500 per month — to combat food insecurity and promote healthy development.

Michelle Kimmel, OVO’s Head Start Program Director, said, “Head Start is vital for our children and families. We truly do help give our families and children a head start in not only education but self-regulation and equip them with the tools to be successful. Head Start is a federally funded program, and this means that after Nov. 1 we will be without our grant award for the Head Start classes in Jefferson, Jennings, and Scott counties.”

Wood highlighted the boarder ripple effects. “We are prepared to do everything we can to keep our classrooms open. Being forced to pause our program means working parents would lose essential childcare, forcing some to miss work or withdraw from school. Children would lose access to high-quality education, social-emotional support, and

nutrition. Our communities have relied on OVO’s Head Start Preschool Program for 60 years — local families depend on our program’s continuity and stability.”

OVO is seeking community support to bridge funding until a new grant award is received. Donations can be made at <https://ovoinc.org/donate-3/> or mail checks to Ohio Valley Opportunities, 421 Walnut Street, Madison, IN 47250. All contributions will directly support keeping classrooms open and services uninterrupted.

“People count on us for impact; the impact we have every single day. Our families count on us. Our staff counts on us. The other parts of the social safety net counts on us.”

Whatever concerns they have, Wood said it’s “the love that we have for the work we do and the families and children we serve all that outweighs any fear we have going into Nov. 1” said Wood. “There is no fear here. We know that people count on us and we’re going to do whatever it takes to be here for them.”

Wood said support has begun to be received to keep Head Start going. “I’m never short on amazement what our community does. When the community rallies together, how beautiful it actually is. We are extremely fortunate to live in this community.

“The response has been good. We’ve gotten quite a few donations,” Wood added. “We have also had a lot of really good conversation around the cascade effect of workforce development, childcare, food insecurity, and hopeful that is the shutdown continues we can continue to receive some private funding to get us through until the government reopens.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

ARCTIC CIRCLE

By Bil Keane



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"That's our Daddy. He's dressed as himself."



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"I thought I'd be at the bowling alley tonight, but you-know-who turned my ball into a Jack-o-Lantern!"



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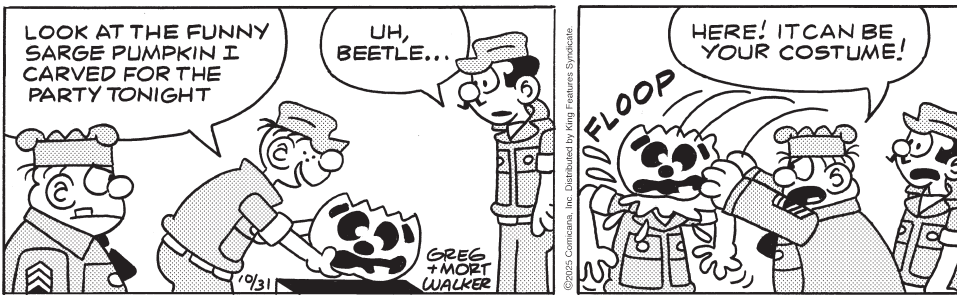
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Wayne & Piro

I roam the earth because I have unfinished funny business.

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RHYMES WITH ORANGE



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THE MEET 'N' GREET
My throat is scorched. Go for a pint, lads?

HALLOWE'EN IN IRELAND

BLONDIE



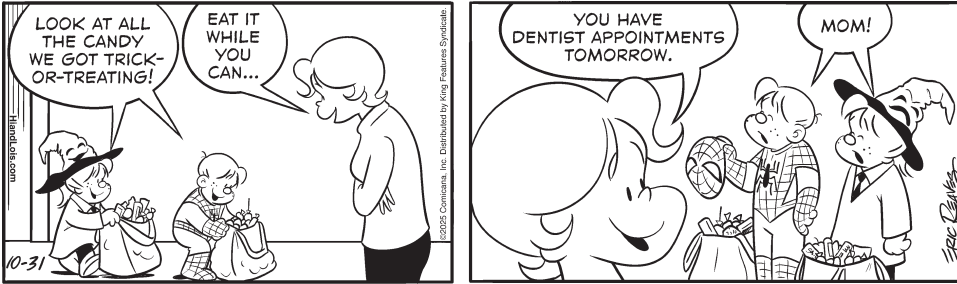
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CURTIS



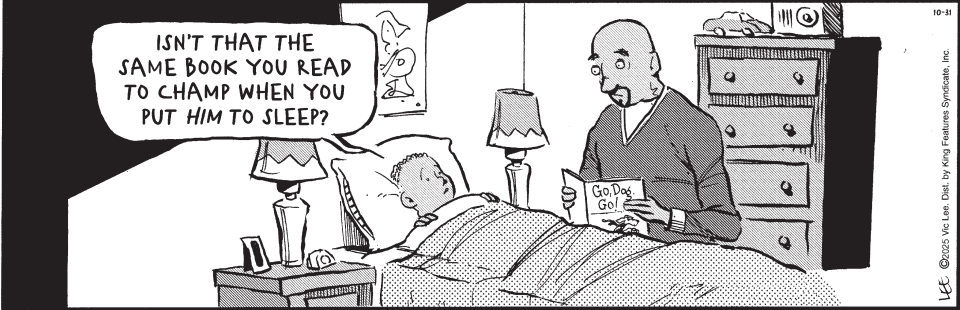
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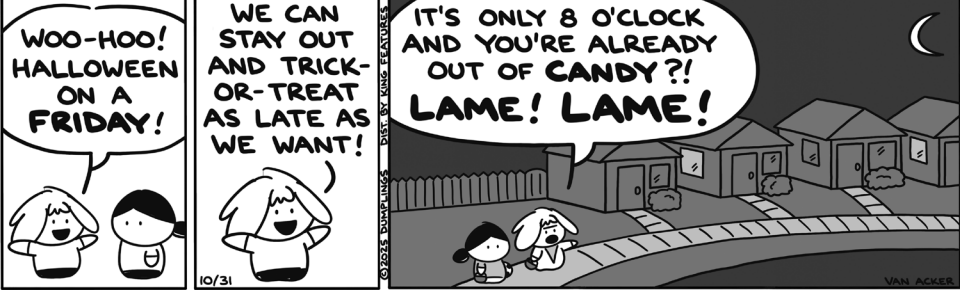
Isn't that the same book you read to Champ when you put him to sleep?

ZITS



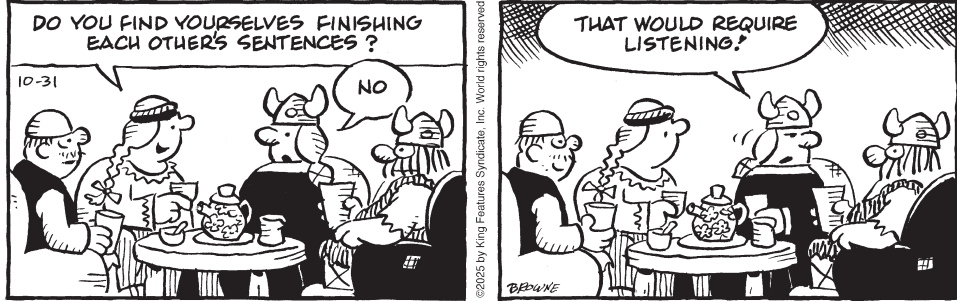
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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



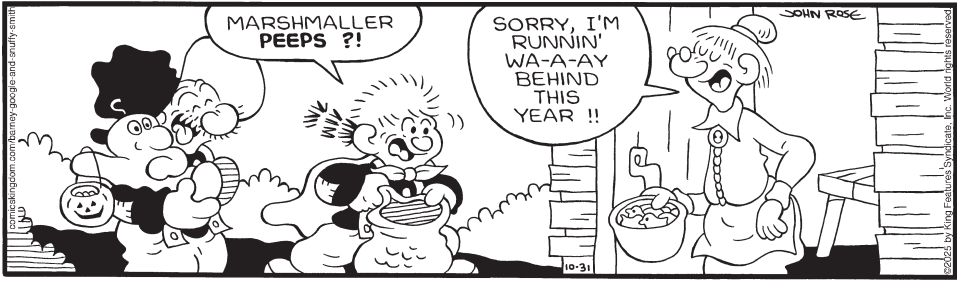
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SALLY FORTH



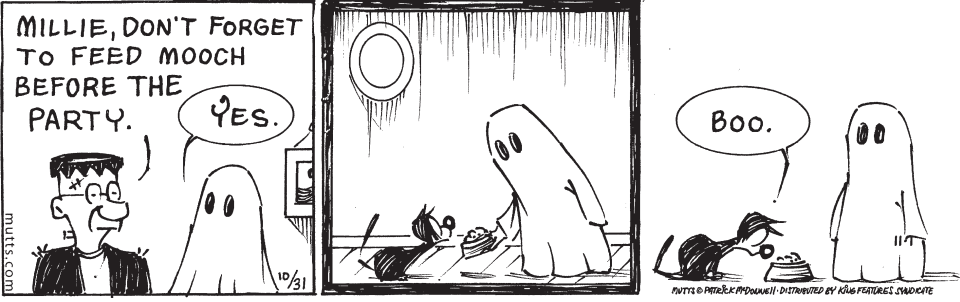
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By Bil Keane

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By Bil Keane

"You don't have to make breakfast for me, Mommy."

DENNIS THE MENACE

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"THE WORST PART ABOUT HALLOWEEN IS WHEN WE RUN OUT OF ALL THE CANDY WE COLLECTED!"

ARCTIC CIRCLE

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GREG MORT WALKER

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PARDON MY PLANET

LEE

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Sports

GIRLS GOLFER OF THE YEAR: Dowell finishes Madison career with record

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Late in her senior season, Emmi Dowell was in a rut. The Madison Consolidated High School golf star was still winning matches, but she wasn't the same old Emmi that had been dominating opponents the past several years.

"I think I was just struggling with my mental game and with it being my senior season, I wanted to perform well, and that kind of hurt my game in the long run instead of pushing me to do better," Dowell said. "I was coming off of a hard summer season and I definitely wanted to do well and I felt like there was a lot of pressure on me from a lot of people. But that pressure was good and I came out of it."

Just as she has done her entire career, Dowell recovered and did so in a big way, shooting a new school record 69 while winning her third-straight sectional title and easily claiming Madison Courier Girls Golfer of the Year for the third time.

Despite her success, Dowell has always remained a down-to-Earth person. Not one to boast or strut, she has always preferred to let her game do the talking for her.

Dowell has been turning heads on the golf course since before she was in junior high and Madison coach Jake Shockley couldn't wait to get her on the course. But what he saw as a freshman was a supremely talented player who didn't realize her own potential.

"Emmi has obviously been an important cog in the continuation of the success of Lady Cubs golf," Shockley said. "I remember when Emmi moved into the high school. Many people thought she was going to be the next Lady Cubs champion. When she was a freshman, however, everybody believed it but her. She only averaged a 97 as a freshman, and I don't think she actually knew her potential. She has grown tremendously as a player and as a person."

She took over the mantle of leader as a sophomore and began getting better and better, culminating in a sectional championship with an 81. The following year, she fired an 80 while winning the sectional crown once again.

But she went out in style this year. Despite that mid-season rut, Dowell hit the sectional running with a round that featured six birdies on her way to a school-record 69, putting her ahead of Lady Cub legends like Karen Dennison, Whitney Eckert, Amanda Detmer and Keara Eder.

"Honestly, it did not seem like I was even doing that good while I was playing," Dowell said with a smile. "My up and down game was really good. And I was just making putts. All my putts."

With her high school career now behind her, Dowell is now looking forward to college and announced on Tuesday that she will attend Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dowell had plenty of offers to play closer to home, but the chance to play at a top-flight junior college appealed to her.

"I think it'll be really good for me. The coach used to be an assistant at Alabama, and there's a 27-hole course and a pro who helps us, who has worked with Justin Thomas," said Dowell, who plans on majoring in physical therapy. "(Coach Lea Green) says it's not D1 golf, but they treat it like D1 golf. So I think it'll help me improve, and then hopefully I can go on to somewhere else, maybe closer to Indiana. I can come back and play two more years at another college."

"She found her confidence as a person, and it has been extremely satisfying as a coach to watch her grow into a much more confident young woman," Shockley said. "I, coach Amanda (Leary), and the rest of the returning players are going to struggle to fill the void that she's going to leave, but it was a fun time while she was here."



Nina Campbell

Madison senior Emmi Dowell is the Madison Courier Girls Golfer of the Year for the third-straight year.

MADISON COURIER 2025 COURIERAREA GIRLS GOLF TEAM		
Player	School	Class
Brinley Bear	Switzerland Co.	Fr.
Eliza Burnette	Madison	Sr.
Marilynn Dalrymple	Switzerland Co.	Sr.
Emmi Dowell*	Madison	Sr.
Paige Gregory	Switzerland Co.	Fr.
Paisley Hendrix	Southwestern	Jr.
Kendal Holbrook	Trimble Co.	Jr.
Alexis Mangold	Switzerland Co.	Jr.
Claire Miller	Madison	So.
Tera Scharlau	Madison	Sr.
Emma Shockley	Madison	Fr.
Payton Stow	Switzerland Co.	Jr.
*Player of the Year		
Recent Golfers of the Year		
2025 — Emmi Dowell, Madison		
2024 — Emmi Dowell, Madison		
2023 — Emmi Dowell, Madison		
2022 — Grace Bronkella, Madison		
2021 — Keara Eder, Madison		
2020 — Keara Eder, Madison		
2019 — Keara Eder, Madison		



File

Madison's Emmi Dowell shot a sectional record 69 to lead the Cubs to their third-straight sectional championship in 2025.



Submitted

The Madison Mudcats 14-under baseball team recently finished the season ranked No. 1 in the state of Indiana. Members of the team are (from left): Front — Jackson Mahoney, Bryson Hankinson, Jameson Sheets, Chase McBride, and Guy-Banks Scroggins; Back — Coach Bart Liter, Chase Geyman, Rylan Harden, Anirudh Arunsanhar, Cayson Deuser, Johnny Cooke, Patrick Kahn, Brantley Conover and Coach Stephen Sheets.

Madison MudCats top Indiana, rank No. 2 nationally

BY THE COURIER STAFF

The Madison MudCats 14U baseball team has been on fire this fall, finishing their fall season on a 10-0 run and 10-3 overall while winning their last two tournaments.

During that 10-0 run, the MudCats have outscored their opponents 116-46, batted an impressive .366 as a team and .397 with runners in scoring position as a team.

The MudCats are currently ranked as the No. 1 AA team in the State of Indiana by USSSA. They are also ranked as the No. 2 team in the country

in the USSSA National Power Rankings.

"This team grinds. It's a bunch of guys that are here for each other. They play that way. Never quit and fight every game. I couldn't be prouder of my guys and how they come to play," MudCats head coach Stephen Sheets said. "They deserve this success as well. They constantly work to get better, and that work is showing on the field."

"We've been at this a long time and for travel ball we are an anomaly because we've all stayed together so long," Sheets added. "That is credit

to the great families we have as a part of this program that not only love their sons but root for the success of all the young men on this team. We have the best group of parents and fans you could ever ask for."

Members of the team include: Anirudh Arunsanhar, Brantley Conover, Johnny Cooke, Cayson Deuser, Chase Geyman, Bryson Hankinson, Rylan Harden, Patrick Kahn, Jackson Mahoney, Chase McBride, Guy-Banks Scroggins and Jameson Sheets. The team is coached by Stephen Sheets and Bart Liter.

HANOVER ROUNDUP

Panthers finish regular season with big win over Anderson

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover men's soccer hammered Anderson 4-1 at home on Wednesday to close out the regular season.

Brandon Seabaugh, Patricio Campos and Brandon Elizarraras each scored goals in the first half as Hanover took a 3-0 lead and Elizarraras added a second goal in the second half. Omar Dizdar had two assists and Campos, Miles McMillen, Cole Hubert and Andrew Pavlisko each had assists.

Hanover out-shot Anderson 21-4 overall and 12-2 on goal.

Hanover, now 13-4-2

overall and 8-1 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, will be the No. 2 seed in the HCAC Tournament and host a semifinal game next Wednesday.

WOMEN'S SOCCER BEATS ANDERSON

Hanover women's soccer closed the regular season with a 1-0 win over Anderson Tuesday on the road.

Hanover dominated the action, out-shooting Anderson 21-7 overall and 8-0 on goal but didn't get the game-winner until the 70th minute when Kaleigh Schirmer put the ball into

SEE **HANOVER/PAGE B2**

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 31 FOOTBALL

Madison hosts Indian Creek, IHSAA Class 3A Sectional, 7 p.m.
Switzerland Co. hosts Clarksville, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional, 7 p.m.
Carroll Co. at Gallatin Co., 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 1 BASKETBALL

Madison girls host Eastern (scrimmage), 11 a.m.
Switzerland Co. girls host South Decatur (scrimmage), 11 a.m.
Southwestern girls host Austin (scrimmage), 1 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Hanover, HCAC Championships at Shelbyville, 9 a.m.

FOOTBALL

Hanover at Bluffton (Ohio), 1:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. at Dayton, 7 p.m.

SOCCER

Hanover women host Anderson, HCAC Tournament, 1 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Hanover hosts Earlham, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 2

No local events

Monday, Nov. 3

No local events

Tuesday, Nov. 4 SOCCER

Hanover/Anderson women at Mount St. Joseph, HCAC Tournament, 7 p.m.



File
Trimble County senior cross country runner Avery Stockdale ran 19th in her final KHSAA regional Saturday at Shelby County.

Kentucky harriers close out season at regional

Trimble's Stockdale top local finish in 18th

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Runners from Carroll and Trimble counties closed out their 2025 cross country season at the KHSAA Region 5 Class 1A Cross Country meet at Shelby County last Saturday. Neither school fielded a complete team and individually all local runners finished out of the positions eligible to advance to the Class 1A state championships.

In the girls 5K, Trimble County senior Avery Stockdale was the top local runner in either event with an 18th place in 22:52.70. Trimble eighth grader Addison Oldson was 29th in 24:09.30, senior Sophie O'Neal ran 36th in 26:53.80 and sophomore Lydia Lawson was 55th in 32:14.60.

The top finishers among Carroll's girls were seniors Adree Dermon with a time of 31:56.40 for 51st place and Miriam Atilano-Zarate in 52nd place with a time of 31:59.30. Lydia Risk, also a senior, ran 56th in 32:39.30.

In the boys 5K, Carroll

County junior Leonel Atilano-Zarate ran 46th in 21:15.60 while freshman Johnathan Pirtle was 62nd in 24:08.50 and freshman Michael Weedman was 71st in 28:29.50. Trimble did not field a runner in the boys event.

Overall, Lexington Christian and Owen County stood even at 46 points through their first five runners in the boys event with the regional championship coming down to a sixth man tie-breaker. The Eagles' sixth man ran 15th overall to the Rebels sixth man placing 35 to secure the team win for Christian.

Lexington Christian junior Kyle Stickel ran a 16:11.60 to win the 5K event over runner-up Bruce Hayden of Paris in 16:40.50 and Owen's Tyler Cammack was third in 17:05.00.

Other advancing teams included Frankfort with a score of 70 while Danville edged Bracken County 93-95 as the final advancing team.

Meanwhile, the girls winner was Christian's Kennedy Moughamian in 18:49.80 to lead a team sweep of five of the first six positions to win the event with 16 points. The other three advancing teams were Danville 58, Frankfort 55 and Gallatin County, which edged Nicholas County 118-119.

HANOVER

FROM PAGE B1

the net.

Hanover, now 7-6-4 overall and 5-2-2 HCAC, earned the No. 4 seed in the HCAC Tournament and hosts No. 5 Anderson on Saturday at 1 p.m. The winner will travel to top-seeded Mount St. Joseph for the semifinals on Tuesday.

**VOLLEYBALL
SWEEP BY TRANSY**

Hanover volleyball suffered a three-set loss at Transylvania Wednesday in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Panthers lost 25-16, 25-19, 25-15.

Abbey McCoy had 10 kills and two blocks for Hanover, Madison Schicker had 12 digs and Brooke Gervers had 12 assists.

Hanover, now 15-10 overall and 3-3 HCAC, hosts Earlham on Saturday and travels to Berea next Wednesday.

LOCAL LEAGUES

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

**HANOVER PARKS
DEPARTMENT**

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

TOURNAMENT

SEMIFINALS

The Farm Off Road Family/Cutshall Contracting Pink Powerhouse d. Andersons' Sales & Service

Purple Passers, 22-25, 25-17, 15-10.

Key Manufacturing Orange Crush d. Miller Automotive Aces, 25-14, 25-13.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Pink Powerhouse d. Orange Crush, 25-20, 25-22.

MONDAY, OCT. 27

**MADISON CHURCH
VOLLEYBALL**

PRAISE DIVISION

Wirt Baptist No. 1 d. Dupont Baptist, 25-9, 25-13.

24/7 Life No. 1 d. Riverstone No. 1, 25-19, 25-17.

Hanover United Methodist d. 24/7 Life No. 1, 25-19, 17-25, 15-7.

Hanover United Methodist d. Riverstone No. 1, 25-21, 25-21.

HALLELUJAH DIVISION

Falls City No. 3 d. Falls City No. 2, 25-17, 25-20.

Falls City No. 3 d. Riverstone No. 2, 25-11, 15-25, 15-10.

Falls City No. 1 d. 24/7 Life No. 2, 25-4, 25-13.

First Baptist d. New Heart No. 2, 25-8, 25-16.

Mount Pleasant Baptist d. New Heart No. 2, 25-7, 25-10.

Wirt Baptist No. 2 d. New Heart No. 1, 17-25, 25-11, 15-13.

No. 2 Indiana expects Fisher to play against Maryland

ASSOCIATED PRESS

No. 2 Indiana expects linebacker Aiden Fisher to be available for Saturday's game at Maryland.

"I'd list him as probable," coach Curt Cignetti said during his weekly news conference Monday.

Fisher has been a key cog in the Hoosiers historic turnaround, and he jump-started last weekend's 56-6 blowout over UCLA by returning an interception 25 yards for a touchdown on the second play of the game. He departed after injuring his left knee on the Bruins next series and spent the rest of the game on the sideline wearing a protective brace on the knee.

Fisher was one of the players who followed Cignetti from James Madison to Indiana after the 2023 season and earned first-team all-Big Ten honors last year. He opened this season as a second-team preseason All-American selection.

This season, Fisher ranks second on the Hoosiers in tackles with 49 and sixth in tackles for loss with seven. He also has 2 1/2 sacks, one interception and four quarterback hits.

The Hoosiers (8-0, 5-0) are chasing a second straight playoff bid and are one of six remaining unbeaten teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision. The others are No. 1 Ohio State, No. 3 Texas A&M, No. 8 Georgia Tech, No. 10 Brigham Young and Navy — the top unranked team receiving votes. Indiana also is receiving the second-most first-place votes, trailing only the defending national champion Buckeyes.



Submitted
The Pink Powerhouse is the 2025 Hanover Parks Department Youth Volleyball Champions. Members of the team are (from left): Front — Aubriella Doyle, Briley Adams, Haidynn Hardin, Maci Lucas and Anna Martinez; Back — Coach Elizabeth Copeland, Blakely Adams, Jillian Beach, Harley Griffin, Amber Moreno, Journey Stewart, Makenna Arvin and coach Bethany Stewart.



Submitted

Don't Gamble Your Retirement on a Political Promise



Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/
Wealth Management

Don't Gamble Your Retirement on a Political Promise. That's not just a warning—it's a wake-up call. Social Security, Medicare, tax policy, and retirement regulations are all shaped by political decisions. While these programs provide essential support for millions of Americans, the truth is that they're subject to change with every election cycle. Building your entire retirement strategy around promises made by politicians—many of whom may be gone before those promises are fulfilled—is a gamble too risky for your financial future. Social Security is the clearest example. It was created as a safety net, not a complete income source. Yet many people treat it

like a pension, counting on it to cover most of their expenses. The problem is that the system is facing financial pressure. Without reform, current projections suggest that by the early 2030s, the Social Security Trust Fund could be depleted. While benefits won't disappear entirely, they could be reduced by as much as 20-25% unless new funding or legislative changes are made. Depending on politicians to fix the problem in time is not a reliable strategy. Similarly, tax laws are constantly evolving. What's deductible today might not be tomorrow. The favorable tax treatment of retirement accounts, Roth conversions, capital gains, and estate transfers could all shift depending on future administrations. If your retirement plan depends on one set of tax rules staying unchanged for the next 20 years, you're taking a bigger risk than you think. Instead of hoping that future laws will be favorable, it's smarter to build a retirement plan that's resilient—one that can withstand political swings and policy changes. That means creating multiple income sources, using products that provide contractual guarantees, and minimizing exposure to sudden shifts in tax or entitlement

rules. Fixed indexed annuities, for instance, offer guaranteed lifetime income that doesn't depend on Washington's decisions. Roth IRAs provide tax-free withdrawals, no matter how tax laws change later. Hope is not a strategy. Politicians can offer promises, but they can't guarantee results. You owe it to yourself and your family to build a plan that doesn't depend on campaign speeches or government fixes. Your retirement should be based on certainty, not speculation. Don't gamble your future on politics—take control of it with a plan that works no matter who's in office.

Stephen Dybwad, a long-time Hoosier resident, is a member of Syndicated Columnists, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

Kasper Insurance
220 Clifty Drive
Madison, IN 47250
Telephone 812-273-1187.
Stephen Dybwad
(annuity.com)

Pacers sign 3-time dunk champ McClung, waive Wiseman

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers signed guard Mac McClung on Tuesday following a rash of early season injuries.

Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

McClung won each of the past three NBA Slam Dunk contests. He's spent most of his career in the G-League. The

6-foot-2 26-year-old has averaged 5.5 points in six career NBA games with the Chicago Bulls, Los Angeles Lakers and Orlando Magic.

He played college basketball at Georgetown and Texas Tech and is expected to join Indiana for Wednesday's game in Dallas.

Indiana opened the season last week already without two-time All-Star guard Tyrese Haliburton, who is expected

to miss the entire season following Achilles tendon surgery in June. Backup point guard T.J. McConnell injured his hamstring during a preseason game and was ruled out of at least the first 10 games.

LEGAL NOTICE

State of Indiana
Jefferson County Trial Court
300 E. Main, Madison, Indiana

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Matter of the Marriage of:
James R. O'Riley, Petitioner, and
Bonna O'Riley, Respondent.
Case Number: 39C01-2508-DN-851
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
To: Bonna L. O'Riley
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you in the above court. You have been sued by your spouse for dissolution of marriage. The case is pending in the court named above. If you do not respond by December 20, 2025, the Court may proceed in your absence, and a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage may be entered against you by default. The Decree may include provisions regarding child custody, child support, parenting time, distribution of assets, and payment of debts. If you wish to respond or have any questions regarding this matter, please contact: Tabatha Eblen, Clerk
Phone: 812-265-8922 Ext. 1558
Dated: October 25, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

THE SWITZERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE ACCEPTING BIDS
The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners is accepting bids for snow removal at the Courthouse, Jail, Tech Center, Health Department, and County Emergency Rescue Building.
Environmentally friendly salt should be used.
Bids are due to the Auditor's office by Friday, November 21st, by 4:30 p.m.

MADISON COURIER

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Publication Date

Deadline

Tuesday

Thursday 4 PM

Friday

Tuesday 4 PM

Contact Customer Service at
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*Holidays advance deadlines by 24 hours.

Switzerland County • Craig Township, IN

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AUCTION LOCATION: Switzerland County Technology & Education Center, 708 West Seminary St, Vevay, IN 47043
PROPERTY LOCATION: Tracts 1-5: 4994 Parks Ridge Rd, Vevay, IN 47043 Tract 6: 6828 Hastings Rd, Vevay, IN 47043
INSPECTION DATES: Fri, Nov. 7 from 3-5pm; Sat, Nov. 8 from 10am-12pm; Fri, Nov. 21 from 3-5pm & Sat, Nov. 22 from 10am-12pm. Meet Auction Manager onsite or call for a private showing.
SELLER: The Revocable Living Trust of Larry & Kathleen Perlich, Kathleen Perlich as Grantor & as Trustee
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LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

Ordinance/Resolution Number:
Be it ordained/resolved by the Switzerland County Council that for the expenses of Switzerland County for the year ending December 31, 2026 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein names and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of Switzerland County, the property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.
The ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Switzerland County Council.
Name of Adopting Entity/Fiscal Body: Switzerland County Council
Type of Adopting Entity/Fiscal Body: County Council
Date of Adoption: 11/3/25

Fund Fund Code Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
0101 General	\$5,329,964	\$2,926,275	0.6765
0124 2015 Reassessment	\$169,827	\$105,400	0.0244
0702 Highway	\$2,517,797	0	0.0000
0706 Local Road & Street	\$295,600	0	0.0000
0790 Cumulative Bridge	\$332,000	\$275,000	0.0636
0801 Health	\$254,335	\$157,200	0.0363
1116 County Emergency Medical Services	\$1,153,332	0	0.0000
1156 Emergency Telephone System	\$203,235	0	0.0000
2391 Cumulative Capital Development	\$89,189	\$92,000	0.8221

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CLASSIFIED ADS

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN INDIANA

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Flacco's status uncertain for Sunday because of shoulder injury

BY CHARLIE GOLDSMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Flacco didn't practice on Wednesday because of a shoulder injury, leaving his status for Sunday's game against the Chicago Bears in question.

Flacco is making an effort to play, which Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor appreciates. "It would be easy to make decision that there's no way I'm playing," Taylor said. "That has not been the communication he's given to me at all. Ultimately, he may not be able to play, we may make that decision. For him just to want to put it out there for a team, like he said before, he's just a football player. That's what he does. That certainly goes a long way with me."

Flacco injured his throwing shoulder on a sack in the fourth quarter in Sunday's 39-38 loss to the New York Jets. Flacco went back to the tunnel before returning for the final drive, which resulted in a stop for the Jets.

Taylor said that the Bengals (3-5) will see what they can get out of Flacco in practice on Thursday. But even if Flacco can't participate on Thursday, he has shown that he can play with minimal practice time.



Jeff Dean/AP Photo

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Flacco (16) calls a play during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Jets, Sunday, Oct. 26, in Cincinnati.

Flacco made two starts for the Bengals in nine days after getting traded from the

Cleveland Browns on Oct. 7.

"I think if anybody in this

league can get by on minimal reps right now it's him," Taylor said.



Gregory Bull/AP Photo

Indianapolis Colts offensive tackle Braden Smith, right, greets teammate center Tanor Bortolini before an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers Sunday, Oct. 19, in Inglewood, Calif.

Colts RT Smith continues to find coping techniques for his mental health struggles

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts right tackle Braden Smith felt the dark thoughts creeping back into his mind before last weekend's game.

This time, though, he won the battle.

After missing Indy's final five games last season because of severe obsessive-compulsive disorder that led him to contemplate suicide, the former Auburn lineman is thriving again now that he's learned how to cope with the condition.

"I felt very eager to prove something to myself," Smith said Wednesday. "Every day for me is really a victory because of everything that happened last year. Just being able to actually, truly enjoy life, there's kind of this power that's kind of harnessed when you're able to identify the problem. You know these things still creep in, like I remember Sunday morning some stuff crept and I was like, 'I know what this is,' and I used the tools. I was able to set it aside. I was like, 'All right, you know these things still happen.' OCD is still part of my life, it's just how I manage it."

Getting to this point — staying positive and focusing on the joys of life — so he could be the husband and father he strives to be and the teammate he wants to be, took the 6-foot-6, 312-pound Kansan on a long, unimaginable journey.

Smith was diagnosed with religious scrupulosity. The condition is driven by anxiety about engaging in actions that might offend God or could be seen as blasphemous and can lead to obsessive behaviors

such as constant prayer or repeated repentance. In Smith's case, it meant trying to be perfect in every way.

He started seeing a psychologist early last season after telling his wife, Courtney, he would retire at the end of the season if the condition didn't improve. In November, he checked into a mental health facility in Colorado, where he spent 48 days.

When that proved only minimally helpful, Smith traveled to Mexico, where he used a psychoactive compound, ibogaine, that is not legal in the U.S. but has been used to treat addictions, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, anxiety and depression.

It changed his life. "This is me versus my OCD and I, kind of like I said, going back to my values, I know who I am and that's a big part of it," Smith said. "When I had OCD, I don't truly feel like I knew who I was, but I feel like I have a better idea of who I am now, and I can always lean on that."

The key, he said, is staying focused on the here and now, and not letting his thoughts drift.

At home, the new approach helped Smith accept that attempting to do the right things is good enough.

On the field, it helped revive a once-promising career that had been derailed by injuries. He missed seven games in 2023 with various ailments, then missed the last five games in 2024 when he said he was "physically present but nowhere to be found."

Now he's playing the kind of football Indy envisioned when it signed him to a four-year, \$72.4 million contract extension in July 2021 — perhaps even better than the

Pro Bowl level coaches thought he competed at prior to 2023. Smith and his teammates along the line have paved the way for a Colts team that has the NFL's best record and top rusher and has allowed the second-fewest sacks.

Along the way, Smith has leaned on a strong supporting cast inside the locker room of a team that has invested heavily in "Kicking The Stigma," a campaign to promote mental health awareness.

"I respect Braden Smith wholeheartedly, just for taking the time out for himself to really maximize his well-being, not only for himself, but for his family," cornerback Kenny Moore II said. "I've had a lot of conversations with Braden through the time or probably post that time where he was going through a lot, and I just have a lot of respect and love as a brother and as a friend for my teammate."

But as Smith knows, his battle is not over.

Periodically, obsessive thoughts may return and when they do, Smith has a plan. He's not thinking ahead to next week, whether he'll re-sign with Indy next year or even if he'll be playing football next season. Instead, he's learned how to stay focused on the present.

"I'm honestly grateful for last year because without it, I wouldn't have such a self-awareness of how I think, how I go about things," he said. "I learned a lot about myself through it, and you know I'm a better husband because of it, a better father because of it, a better teammate and I'm continuing to grow as a person. My journey isn't over yet. I still have a lot of room to grow and learn, and I look forward to that."

If Flacco doesn't start, then Jake Browning will return to the lineup against the Bears.

Browning opened the season as the Bengals' backup quarterback, but he lost all of his three starts and struggled with interceptions. The Bengals then traded for Flacco to spark the offense.

"I've been happy with Jake's response," Taylor said. "He's still working hard. If he's in there and he gets the opportunity, then I have confidence in Jake and that Jake can win us the game. However it shakes out we'll have a great plan in place to help those guys."

Browning operated as the starting quarterback in practice on Wednesday as Flacco rehabbed.

"Jake's a pro," offensive coordinator Dan Pitcher said. "Jake's a guy who's always carried himself with confidence. He's continued to put the work in. He's as disappointed as I'm sure he was. Part of him probably remains, with how things have transpired. He's done his job. He's helped Joe (Flacco) and at the same time prepared himself should the opportunity arise where he needs to play."

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)
IN THE JEFFERSON)
COUNTY) COURT
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
CASE NO. 39C01-2510-MI-1000)
IN RE THE MATTER OF:)
Kayla Brianne Cyrus)
Petitioner)
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR)
CHANGE OF NAME)
Kayla Brianne Cyrus, whose)
mailing address is:)
277 November Street Han-)
over, Indiana 47243, in the)
Jefferson County, Indiana,)
hereby gives notice that Kay-)
la Brianne Cyrus has filed a)
petition in the Jefferson)
County) Court re-)
questing that their name be)
changed to Kay Birdy Partin.)
Notice is further given that the)
hearing will be held on said)
Petition on: Wednesday,)
December 3, 2025 @)
11:30am)
Kayla Brianne Cyrus)
Petitioner)
Date 10/10/25)
/s/ Tabatha Eblen)
County Clerk: Jefferson)
(SEAL)

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APPROVED UTILS ROAD
\$51,900

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
ESTATE NUMBER 39C01-2510-EU-000069
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE
OF CARL MORGAN DECEASED.
Devon M. Sharpe, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE,
307 Jefferson Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CARL MORGAN,
DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that William Kalb was, on the 14th day of
October, 2025, appointed personal representative of the estate of
Carl Morgan, deceased, who died on the 28th day of September,
2025.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not
now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court
within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of
this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death,
whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 14th day of October, 2025.
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN

LEGAL NOTICE

Jefferson Circuit Court
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
ESTATE NUMBER 39C01-2510-EU-000072
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE)
OF EARL K. WRIGHT, JR., DECEASED.)
William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE,
508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EARL K. WRIGHT, JR.,
DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that Nicholas Wright and Ryan Wright
were, on the 23rd day of October, 2025, appointed personal rep-
resentatives of the estate of Earl K. Wright, Jr., deceased, who
died on the 20th day of September, 2025.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not
now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court
within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of
this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death,
whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 23rd day of October, 2025.
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN

Regardless of who's under center, it helps that the Bengals had the most efficient rushing attack in the NFL in October and also showed impressive explosiveness last week against the Jets.

If Flacco is out, then the Bengals will likely lean heavier into their run game with Chase Brown and backup running back Samaje Perine, who has especially given the offense a boost. Perine averaged 10.4 yards per carry against the Jets.

"He's very much aware of his personal strengths and what has allowed him to produce as an NFL football player," Pitcher said. "He leans into those things, we try to put him in position to do those things."

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
IN THE JEFFERSON
CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
39C01-2510-PL-000996
KAREN TINGLE,
Plaintiff
VS
ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS
CLAIMING ANY RIGHT,
TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR
INTEREST IN THE REAL
PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN
THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE
TO THE PLAINTIFF'S OWN-
ERSHIP, OR ANY CLOUD
UPON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE
THERETO,
Defendants
SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION
TO: All Unknown Persons,
claiming any right, title, estate,
lien or interest in the real
property
Described in the complaint
adverse to Plaintiff's owner-
ship, or any cloud upon
Plaintiff's title thereto
Whereabouts Unknown
THE STATE OF INDIANA
to the above persons named
as Defendants and any other
person who may be con-
cerned.
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that
you have been sued in the
court above-named by the
person named as Plaintiff. The
nature of the suit is a com-
plaint for adverse possession
and to quiet title. The com-
plaint was filed on October 9,
2025. The nature of the suit is
a complaint for adverse pos-
session and to quiet title to the
following described real es-
tate located in Jefferson
County, Indiana:
In the City of Madison, and
being a part of the northwest
quarter of Section 27, Town-
ship 4 North, Range 10 East;
Beginning at the northwest
corner of the North Madison
School Lot; thence north par-
allel with the west line of the
School Lot, 100 feet; thence
south 69° 30' east, 60 feet;
thence south parallel with the
west line of the School Lot
100 feet; thence north 69.5°
west 60 feet to the place of
beginning. ALSO an ease-
ment of a roadway; beginning
on the north line of School Lot
60 feet east of the northwest
corner of School Lot; thence
south 69.5° east with said
school house lot line 109.5
feet; thence north 18 feet;
thence north 69.5° west 109.5
feet; thence south 18 feet to
the place of beginning.
ALSO part of the northwest
quarter of Section 27, Town-
ship 4 North, Range 10 East;
beginning 140 feet west and
10 feet south of the northeast
corner of the southwest
quarter of said section; thence
south 15° 22' west 100 feet to
the northeast corner of North
Madison School Lot; said
point being 110 feet south 72°
4' east from the northwest
corner of original school lot,
thence north 15° 22' east 100
feet to a stake; thence south
72° 4' east 50 feet to the place
of beginning. Containing 0.115
acres, more or less. ALSO the
right to the use, together with
others, of an easement of a
roadway which begins 34°
west 18 feet north of school
lot; thence east 16.5 feet and
same width along the east
side of school lot to Orchard
Street, about 13 rods. See
Deed Record 122, page 56.
The whereabouts of All Un-
known Persons, claiming any
right, title, estate, lien or in-
terest in the real property de-
scribed in the complaint ad-
verse to Plaintiff's ownership,
or any
cloud upon Plaintiff's title
thereto, are unknown.
You must respond to the
suit within thirty (30) days after
the last notice of this action is
published and, if you fail to do
so, judgment by default may
be entered against you for the
relief demanded in the
complaint.
The name and address of
the attorney for the Plaintiff is
William Joseph Jenner, Jen-
ner, Pattison & Sharpe, 508
East Main Street, Madison,
Indiana, 47250, Telephone:
(812) 265-5132.
Dated at Madison, Indiana,
this 9th day of October, 2025.
/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of
Jefferson County, Indiana
[SEAL]

Marco Andretti retires, ending family’s Indy 500 era

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

Marco Andretti said Wednesday he is retiring from racing, a decision that likely means the “Andretti Curse” at the Indianapolis 500 will never end.

The 38-year-old grandson of Mario Andretti announced on social media he will not attempt to enter the Indianapolis 500 next season and will instead turn his attention to his daughter, business ventures outside of racing, and a memoir in process called “Defending the Dynasty.”

Next year’s Indianapolis 500 will not have an Andretti in the field for the first time since 2005.

“I have had some really fun times behind the wheel in a lot of different types of racing cars — a lot of great memories as well, mostly at the Indy 500,” Marco Andretti wrote in his announcement, noting his start this year was the 20th of his career, good enough for 12th all-time.

“I am very much at peace with the next chapter in my life after dedicating three decades to the sport,” he added.



Dave Parker/AP Photo

Marco Andretti poses for a photo after he qualified for the Indianapolis 500 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, May 17.

Marco Andretti also reflected on the Indy 500, his performances there and when he and his father battled for the lead in the closing laps of the

2006 race.

Marco Andretti was an IndyCar rookie, his father, Michael, came out of retirement to race against him, and Marco’s late pass of Michael should have been enough for the victory. Sam Hornish Jr. ended up chasing down Marco Andretti and the curse that dates to 1970 — the year after Mario Andretti gave the family their only Indy 500 win — continued.

“I am proud of my overall stats at the Indy 500. I had six very legitimate shots at victory with Andretti Autosport and ended up with 20% top-3 finishes at the Speedway,” Marco Andretti wrote. “It feels accomplishing to me to be able to retire having more podium finishes than my father Michael and the same as my grandfather Mario at the biggest race in the world.”

He added to his Indy 500 memories nearly being bumped from the field in 2011 and winning the pole in 2020.

“That is what the Indianapolis 500 produces: extremes on both ends. That is why I love and appreciate it so much,” he wrote.

Marco Andretti won two times over

253 IndyCar starts spanning 20 years. He debuted at the age of 19 driving for his father’s team, which is now known as Andretti Global but Michael Andretti was bought out of the ownership group at the end of last season.

Marco Andretti scaled back in 2021 to run only the Indianapolis 500 as he dabbled in NASCAR and other racing series. With Michael Andretti no longer an official part of the team, new owner Dan Towriss is under no obligation to enter Marco Andretti at Indy.

Marco Andretti’s final Indy 500 will go down as one of his worst — he crashed on the fourth lap as both Mario and Michael Andretti dropped their heads at another Indy disaster.

Despite the heartbreak at Indianapolis, the Andretti name is one of the most globally respected in racing. Mario Andretti won the 1978 Formula 1 championship, IndyCar titles in 1965, 1966, 1969 and 1984, and the 1967 Daytona 500 in NASCAR.

Mario Andretti is the only driver to win Indy, Daytona and an F1

championship. He is the only driver to win IndyCar races in four different decades and his 52 career victories rank third on IndyCar’s all-time list.

Michael Andretti ranks fourth all-time with 42 wins in IndyCar, just never at Indianapolis. He won the 500 as a team owner five different times. He won one title, was runner-up in the standings five times and ran 13 of the 16 races in the 1993 F1 season.

Marco Andretti only began trying other racing series after he stepped away from full-time IndyCar competition. The pressure on him to live up to his last name was enormous, especially at Indianapolis.

He reflected on his two decades in IndyCar as “competing at the top level of North American motorsport is and has been an honor for me, even in the tough times.”

“That is where I can look back and say I have made my best progress in life as a man,” he said. “Learning to navigate very difficult dynamics at times, and others doubting me, made me realize that my opinion of myself is the one that should matter the most.”

NASCAR's title-deciding race: Hendrick vs. Gibbs, Chevrolet vs. Toyota

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

AVONDALE, Ariz. — There are only two certainties heading into NASCAR’s title-deciding season finale race: Rick Hendrick or Joe Gibbs will be the winning car owner, while the driver will be in either a Chevrolet or a Toyota.

Beyond that, the winner-take-all showdown Sunday at Phoenix Raceway is a guessing game with no obvious favorite among Denny Hamlin and Chase Briscoe from Joe Gibbs Racing, and William Byron and Kyle Larson of Hendrick Motorsports.

Hamlin leads the series in race wins (six), while Briscoe is the series leader in poles (seven) and top-five finishes (15). Byron was NASCAR’s regular-season champion and led a series-high 1,278 laps, while Larson has the second-most top-10 finishes in the series (21). Byron and Larson are tied for the series lead in stage wins (10).

Hamlin is probably the sentimental pick. The three-time Daytona 500 winner is already regarded as the most accomplished driver to never win a Cup Series title, an unwanted moniker previously held by Hall of Famer Mark Martin.

But with 60 race wins and at least five blown opportunities to win the championship, Hamlin has seized the bridesmaid role away from Martin.

“Mark Martin didn’t have nearly the same amount of misses as me, there’s just no way,” Hamlin said before rattling off a list of bad luck, bad decisions and bad timing that has caused him to finish second to Jimmie Johnson in a 2010 head-to-head race, then fall short four separate times in the “Championship 4” format in 2014.

He’s made it back to the finale this season for a fifth time, first since 2021.

Larson is the only driver in the field with a Cup title — he won it in 2021 in his first season driving for Hendrick. He was runner-up in 2023, but is

making just his third appearance in the championship race.

Byron, the two-time reigning Daytona 500 winner, is back in the finale for a third consecutive year after winning last week at Martinsville Speedway to grab one of the two open slots in the championship field. Larson took the final spot on points over Christopher Bell, who just missed out on giving Gibbs three shots at the Cup.

Briscoe, in his first season driving for Gibbs, is in the final four for the first time in his career. He did race in this format for the second-tier Xfinity Series championship in 2020 when he won a series-high nine races, but Austin Cindric took the title by winning the race.

“I guess when I was a little kid I dreamed about winning a NASCAR championship, but it was just a pipe dream, you know? It wasn’t something I thought I’d ever actually get a chance to do,” Briscoe said. “My goal was

to just race one race in NASCAR — at any level — just being able to do that was already a dream come true.”

It is the second time in four years that the championship field is an even split between the two winningest playoff teams in NASCAR history. Hendrick got the win the first time, in 2021 when Larson defeated teammate Chase Elliott, as well as Gibbs drivers Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr.

“We got one race. We know what we’re up against, somebody that’s really, really good,” Gibbs said. “Two cars in there for them. Two for us. Hopefully this will be good for the fans and everybody and the excitement. Probably won’t be good for me. I’ll be so nervous.”

Team Penske won the last three championships with Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney, but when both failed to win at Martinsville, Logano lost a shot to defend last year’s win and Ford was locked out of the finale. That means Chevrolet can win its first title

since 2021, and Toyota has a chance at its first since Kyle Busch won driving for Gibbs in 2019.

Hamlin, Briscoe and Byron all won playoff races to advance this far, while Larson did it on points as he’s mired in a losing streak that dates back to Kansas in early May before Larson’s second try to complete the Indianapolis 500 and Coca-Cola 600 on the same day.

“There’s a lot of races he was leading the race, and a caution came out and something happened,” said Hendrick, noting that Larson was leading when he ran out of gas at Talladega and Briscoe got the victory and the automatic berth in the championship.

“I think he’s got the bit in his teeth right now,” Hendrick continued. “The guys have worked hard on our flat track, short track program. Kyle’s ready, and so is William. I’m looking forward to this weekend and trying to get another championship.”

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